

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/509,681

Our Ref: Q58461

4. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the dextran molecules have a reducing sugar content not above 4% b.w. after the oxidation.

5. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the hydrogenation is performed by means of sodium borohydride in aqueous solution.

6. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the oxidation is performed by means of a hypochlorite, preferably sodium hypochlorite in basic aqueous solution.

7. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized in the following steps:

preparing an aqueous solution comprising the hydrogenated and oxidized dextran and at least one water-soluble ferric salt;

adjusting the pH of said aqueous solution to a value above 10 by addition of a base;

heating the mixture to a temperature above 100°C until it turns into a black or dark brown colloidal solution and is filterable through a 0.45 µm filter;

purification and stabilization of the solution using filtration, heating and membrane separations and addition of one or more stabilizers, and

optionally drying the solution to obtain the desired iron-dextran compound as a stable powder.

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*10. (Amended)* Iron-dextran compound produced according to claim 1,  
characterized in that its apparent peak molecular weight (Mp) is 50.000-150.000 Da, preferable  
70.000-130.000, more preferable 80.000-120.000 Da and its iron content is 15-45% b.w.